

Upper Grand District School Board
Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
Minutes

A Special Board meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, starting at 7:00 p.m. All Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee Campbell. Student Trustees Amelia Luff and Nathalie Alaves were also in attendance.

Due to the meeting being held virtually, Trustees were advised that the meeting was being recorded by Administrative Assistant to the Board Anne Scott to assist with minute preparation. Trustee MacNeil detailed the protocol for virtual meetings.

Traditional Greeting – Trustee Topping

Opening Prayer – Trustee MacNeil

Trustee MacNeil stated that she would like to begin by acknowledging what an unusual and unprecedented time we are all living through right now. None of us have the definitive instruction manual on how to get through this. We are doing what we do best as we Learn, Lead, and Inspire...Together!

Trustee MacNeil acknowledged the tremendous efforts of our staff. Everyone including custodians, office coordinators, teachers, support staff, school administration, senior administration, the Director of Education, and more, have gone well above and beyond to completely reinvent our entire school system in the space of 3 weeks. This is truly an astounding feat and one that we should all be so very proud of. We are so lucky to have such incredible people taking care of the education community in the Upper Grand District School Board.

Many of those staff members have been involved in efforts to support our wider community by doing things such as using our 3D printers to make parts for face masks for health care or front line workers. A donation of surplus Personal Protective Equipment was donated from schools and facilities to Hospitals throughout our district. These are just two of the many ways our Board continues to show care and compassion for those in need in our community. .

Special thanks were expressed to our fantastic students and their families. They have stepped up to an unbelievable challenge and are making the Board proud with the way they have responded. Students will be missing their friends and many school events and milestones such as end of year trips for Grade 6 and Grade 8 students, proms, graduations, and special parties that schools hold to celebrate the end of the year. It is hoped that our students are able to cope with these disappointments with hope and reassurance that this will end and we will enjoy the company of our friends once again.

Last, but not least, Trustee MacNeil thanked her fellow Trustees for the work they have done and will continue to do in providing support and encouragement to staff, students and their families, and each other. Your dedication to our Upper Grand family and your communities is greatly appreciated.

Confirmation of the Agenda

In consideration of good governance practice and in reference to items 12 Board Correspondence and item 14 Dates of Future Meetings as listed on the agenda, Trustee Busuttil questioned the source of the motions and under what authority they were to be presented. She also requested that the agenda be amended to move the motion listed under item # 12 Board Correspondence to be considered under Trustee Questions and Reports.

Trustee MacNeil advised that, in reference to item 12 on the Agenda, Board Correspondence, the recommendation originated from Trustee Bailey. The purpose was to write a letter to the Minister of Education to get clarification about timelines for school closures. This information would be shared with the staff and students so they would know whether they should be preparing for a return to the classroom or fully commit to e-learning, and ease stress for everyone concerned.

Trustee MacNeil also advised that item 14 on the agenda, under Dates of Future Meetings was developed at the agenda planning meeting with Director of Education Rogers, Chair of the Board Trustee MacNeil, Vice-Chair of the Board Trustee Lustgarten Evoy, and Administrative Assistant to the Board Scott. The intent was to develop a motion for Trustees to provide clarity to the status of future meetings, in view of the current world wide pandemic and the need for social isolation and distancing, and school and facility closures.

Trustee MacNeil responded that the request to amend the agenda at a Special Board meeting would require 2/3 votes in favour, with all Trustees present. All Trustees were not present. She apologized that the motion in item # 12 was not in the correct place on the agenda. Trustee Busuttil stated that will do.

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Lustgarten Evoy, that the agenda be confirmed as printed.

The motion carried.

At this time in the meeting, Trustee MacNeil apologized for the technical difficulty with her connection and requested that Vice-Chair Trustee Lustgarten Evoy take the Chair for remainder of the meeting or until Trustee MacNeils' technical difficulty was resolved.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held February 25, 2020

Trustee Ross moved, seconded by Trustee Busuttil, that the minutes of the meeting held February 25, 2020, and the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held immediately prior to the Board meeting, be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Ratification of Business Transacted by the Committee of the Whole In Camera

Trustee Ross moved, seconded by Trustee Busuttil, that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole In Camera be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Ross, that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

Business Operations Committee

Trustee Ross moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held March 10, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Ross moved that:

1. The report entitled "School Year Calendar 2020-2021" dated March 10, 2020 be received.
2. The proposed school calendars for the 2020-2021 school year for the Upper Grand District School Board's elementary and secondary schools, as outlined in Appendix B and C respectively, be approved by the Board for submission to the Ministry of Education for final approval in accordance with Regulation 304.
3. When the pause on Accommodation Reviews is lifted by the Ministry of Education, that the senior staff bring forth a summary of the options for the Board's consideration for secondary French Immersion in Orangeville and Dufferin and Erin.

4. Memo PLN: 20-03 “2020 Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) Annual Review Report” dated March 10, 2020 be received.
5. The Board approves, in principle, the updated short-term work plan priorities described in Figure 1 in Appendix A of PLN: 20-03 “2020 Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) Annual Review Report”, with the understanding that work plan priorities may be changed as a result of future annual and 5-year LTAP review cycles.
6. The Communication Plan as described in memo PLN: 20-03 “2020 Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) Annual Review Report” be approved.
7. Report PLN:20-01 “2020/21 JK FI On-Time Application Overview” be received for information.
8. The IT Security Presentation of 2020 be received.
9. The Retirements and Resignations Report dated March 10, 2020 be received.

The motion carried.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held March 11, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC)

Trustee Topping moved that the minutes of the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) meeting March 2, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Policy Management Committee

Trustee Ross moved that the minutes of the Policy Management Committee held March 10, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Ross moved that:

1. Policy 500 First Nation, Métis and Inuit Self-Identification be approved.
2. Policy 417 Violence in the Workplace be approved.
3. Policy 706 Corporate Credit Card be approved.
4. Policy 701 Reimbursement of Employee Expenses be approved.

The motion carried.

Board Correspondence

The following motion was printed on the agenda: “The Chair of the Upper Grand District School Board be directed to write a letter to the Minister of Education denouncing a May 4th return to school date as both dangerous for communities and disorienting to system staff who do not know whether they should be preparing for a return to the classroom or fully commit to e-learning, and that the Board consider what other actions should be taken to mitigate the challenges around system and public expectations associated with the May 4th date.”

In reference to the above motion, Trustee Bailey stated that today, the government issued a release noting that schools would continue to be physically closed after May 4, 2020. This was a grave concern of his with unsettling timelines that most consider to be unrealistic. This does not allow the students, staff, or the community to settle in a certain direction, whether to return to school or continue with distance or online learning. He noted that self-isolation places stress and strain on families who look to the Board and Ministry of Education for direction on dates set for school closures and potential re-opening. He felt that this proposed motion should be brought to the table to send a strong message to the government and the Minister of Education. He noted that he did not see a way to rephrase it without significantly changing the intent of the motion. Reluctantly, following today’s news release, he felt he needed to withdraw the motion. He requested that other Trustees consider some tentative strategies to use to provide leadership and direction to communities and to express to the government how the timelines could be affecting systems and communities. Trustee Bailey withdrew the motion.

Trustee Questions and Reports - nil report

Dates of Future Meetings

Trustee MacNeil moved that, due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Board consider suspending all future committee and Board meetings and that all future meeting only be held at the call of the appropriate committee or Board Chair.

The motion was lost.

Motion to Rise and Report to the Board

Trustee Ross moved that the Committee of the Whole rise and report to the Board.

The motion carried.

Ratification of Business

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Ross that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

Adjournment

Trustee Bailey moved that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 7:37 p.m.

The motion carried.

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